

Dave Kapp Esq., entertainment attorney. Broadcast Consultant.
Manager On-air operations MTV networks, New York, 1981-1992.

Vice President, Caribbean Satellite Network Miami, 1992-1994.

I represent numerous recording artists.

Commercial stations simply do not play local music, period. They only play what they get paid to play by the labels - via "promotion accounts." Massive group owners like Clear Channel have made this situation into a CRISIS, by cutting out local programmers altogether.

I have never received airplay (or even a response) from ANY commercial radio station. They simply are not interested in music they don't get MONEY for.

Non commercial, college radio is the ONLY outlet left for locals artists. Even so, most college stations do not play music submitted by non-station-members (non-contributors). So, a form of payola exists, even in the College radio circuit.

Worst example is WFUV. If you're not a member - no airplay, so the problem persists, even on some non-commercial college stations.

Best station is WUSB in Stony Brook. WUSB does play local artists in many genres, including folk, reggae, blues, punk, classical and jazz.

PAYOLA IS RAMPANT. The corrupt FCC (under both Reid Hundt and Michael Powell) has been looking the other way for YEARS.

FCC should define local programming because it is RAPIDLY DISAPPEARING.

FCC should define local programming as that which is produced AND originates at the local station level.

Local programs should include anything produced and originated locally, including news, sports AND entertainment programs - ANYTHING to get local music an outlet.

No, station participation in local community activities should NOT count towards the local programming requirement. Only PROGRAMMING should count. If the station does local activities, that's all well and good, but cannot be counted as programming. Having a walk-a-thon does not help the disenfranchised local artist.

PAYOLA IS MORE RAMPANT THAN EVER. It occurs thousands of times each and every day. Everyone in the business (except FCC) has known about this for years! Every time a song gets played at a commercial station, a "promotion account" is debited and the station gets paid in a disguised manner.

FCC should prohibit any payments from anybody that does music research, or makes programming suggestions.

If an artist does a free concert for a radio station, either for a charity or not, the FCC should ABSOLUTELY consider that a form of payola. The amount of the payola is equal to their "going rate" for concerts at similar venues. This is both payola AND extortion, wherein the station twists the artists' arm to perform or they give NO AIRPLAY to the artists' new songs.

Record labels should NOT be allowed to buy ad spots on stations to play their band's songs as an announced ad? This is just LEGALIZING PAYOLA. It's bad enough that LABELS ALREADY do buy ad spots on stations to play their band's songs as an UN-announced ads - It's called MTV. Look it up sometime.

„Voice-tracking% has RUINED local radio, and unfairly takes advantage of on-air talent.

When the next big emergency strikes and there is no local announcer at the microphone, it will be clear that voice tracking is contraray to the principles of local broadcasting.

National playlists have RUINED local radio. because now Clear Channel has unlimited power to run all competitors out of business (local CONCERT VENUES as well as local BROADCASTERS).

After all, running a real local station costs more than an automated station running the network feed.

The FCC inquiry should also focus on unfair trade practices and anti-trust activities related to Clear Channels' control of CONCERT VENUES as well as radio.

CONCLUSION - PAYOLA HAS BEEN RAMPANT FOR YEARS - WAKE UP AND ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM.